



**Arlington Historic District Commissions
March 23, 2023 – Remote
Final and Approved Minutes**

Commissioners Present: D. Baldwin, P. Chaves (joined at 8:24pm), B. Cohen, B. Labau,
S. Makowka, B. Melofchik, C. Tee

Commissioners C. Barry, A. Johnson, S. Savarese, J. Worden
Not Present:

Guests: D. Iseppi, M. Ambrose, A. Jones

1. **AHDC Meeting Opens** 8:00pm. S. Makowka called meeting to order at 8:02pm and advised recording in progress per Commission protocol to assist with minutes
2. **Approval of draft minutes from February 23, 2023** B. Cohen asked to table minutes to April, seconded by D. Baldwin. Roll call vote: D. Baldwin - Y, B. Cohen - Y, B. Labau - Y, S. Makowka - Y, B. Melofchik - Y, C. Tee -Y. Unanimous approval.
3. **Appointment of Alternate Commissioners – Pleasant Street-** B. Melofchik and S. Makowka as alternates
4. **Communications**
 - S. Makowka reported Zoom meetings being discussed but no decision on extension past 3/31.
 - S. Makowka received finance committee request for 2024 appropriation – requested \$5100 to \$5750. Some money built up maybe to replace the signs – so S. Makowka reached out for costs to replace sign, discussion about signs. B. Cohen suggested contact AHC since they are making signs also. S. Makowka will reach out to AHC as well.
 - S. Makowka reported re: 38 Gray Street: C Barry (monitor) had meeting with homeowner and building dept. to discuss outstanding items. As he understood it, there is some level of disagreement on the chimney issue. He has been informed by Town Counsel that the owner has filed an appeal of our decisions, but he has not seen it yet. (S. Makowka asked that an Executive Session related to this matter be added to next month's agenda)
 - B. Cohen as monitor said Historical Society (7 Jason Street) sent note about sign and she felt it looks good and she went approved one slight modification.

5. New Business

- a. **Formal Hearing for 135 Pleasant St. (Irvington Condo Assoc) request for front step handrails** Postponed at applicant's request
- b. **Formal Hearing for 40 Westminster Ave. (Gondouin) request for skylight installations** – Postponed at applicant's request
- c. **Informal Hearing for 170 Pleasant St (Gillis) for replacement garage windows.** – Applicant not available to answer questions. The Commission noted that the subject windows and door are visible from side street. We will put on the next month's agenda for a formal hearing.
- d. **Informal Hearing for 19 Maple Street (Ambros) for gutter and downspout replacements.** Mansard roof, existing wood gutters had been removed by prior owners and they want to reinstall fiberglass gutters made by Fiberglass with copper downspouts at the corners of the house. Mr. Ambros gave presentation. Small rear addition already has same fiberglass gutters and all they want to do is add same fiberglass gutters to main structure where they had been removed. Applicant showed historical photographs documenting original conditions. S. Makowka proposed that it can be approved as a CONA. No oppositions to this from other Commissioners. B. Labau said it's great that they're bringing back the original detail. S. Makowka will issue a CONA.
- e. **Informal Hearing for 221 Pleasant St (Jones) for fence installation.** A. Jones said they want to install fence around rear garden on property. Rear garden barely visible from the road on Pleasant Street has been decimated by animals. Micromesh wire fence (black steel) 3 feet high. S. Makowka noted that for a past fence application along property line, there was lots of discussion re demarcation issues due to the non-standard siting of the house on the property (i.e. not facing road directly). The question is – is this reasonable for a fence along the top part of the garden that is 30' in elevation from the roadway. If we propose a 10 day the monitor would need to approve the material prior to installation.

The applicant stated that the fence will follow the grade with the top and bottom of the fence installed at an angle. Fence will be black. B. Melofchik asked about the front façade issue. D. Baldwin said it's not that we don't allow fences in front of homes, if you could find more of a mid-century modern fence that would blend in – even it's smaller than a chainlink fence it's still in essence a chain link fence. Applicants stated that they haven't found another solution that meets that requirement to keep critters out. The Commissioners suggested they consider a box weave metal fence (horizontal and vertical webbing) rather than the diagonal chain link. Applicant said they were not aware of that type and that they wanted to avoid any type of opaque fence since a you will really see some kind of solid fence running up the side of the property. There are wire mesh panels that are appropriate to this house. S. Makowka said two questions – location of fence and type of fence. He suggested that if the proposed fence was moved such that it was not directly in front of house side facing the street, due the unique situation of this particular property, the intent of the bylaw would be met and we could issue a CONA for a backyard fence. The red line (proposed fence location) would need to change to intersect with the right front corner of the house. Applicant would be fine with that and noted that with that change, it would be an easier way to put the gate in. S. Makowka will issue a CONA after received a revised drawing.

6. Old Business

- a. Report from Streetscape sub-committee - **None**
 - b. Modification of Design Guidelines (Little Libraries, Below Grade Windows) - **None**
 - c. Joint AHDC/AHC Meeting – **Shooting for Tuesday, May 16, 2023 on ZOOM at 730PM**
 - d. AHDC Public Input Meeting
 - e. Central and Mt Gilboa - **postcard to be sent re new Commissioners**
7. **Meeting Adjourns – D. Baldwin moved to adjourn, seconded by B. Cohen, Unanimous approval to adjourn at 9:01pm.**